



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

January 20, 2011

Mr. James D. Sinegal
Chief Executive Officer
Costco, Inc.
PO Box 34331
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Mr. Sinegal,

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) exists to provide advice about issues related to the restoration of the Anacostia River Watershed, the watershed of a severely polluted river in Washington, D.C. and suburban Maryland. AWCAC has learned that Costco is planning to build a large store in the headwaters of this watershed in Wheaton, Maryland. It is critical for the restoration efforts of the Anacostia that this store contain features to retain and infiltrate rain water and prevent it from immediately running off into the surrounding storm drain system. Specifically, the new Costco building site should include three things: a substantial green roof, parking lot bioretention systems, and expansion of the existing tree buffer on the property.

U.S. Geological Survey studies have found that the Anacostia currently produces at least 10 times more sediment than the typical Chesapeake Bay tributary. The reason so much sediment is produced is excessive rain water runoff from impervious surfaces such as roof tops and parking lots. To deal with this problem, the United States Congress commissioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create an Anacostia Restoration Plan (see www.anacostia.net) listing thousands of rain water mitigation projects that can be done. Montgomery County, Maryland, where Wheaton is located, participated in creating the Anacostia Restoration Plan, which was released in April 2010. AWCAC advises that Costco contact the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Mr. Bob Hoyt (bob.hoyt@montgomerycountymd.gov) about its willingness to include a green roof, parking lot bioretention systems, and tree buffer expansion in the building site. It may be possible through the Anacostia Restoration Plan for federal money to be used for environmental features on the Costco building.

Please stand up for responsible community involvement at your Wheaton store. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Smith
2010-2011 AWCAC Chair

c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington DC 20002-4329
anacostia@mwcog.org



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Cc:

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive

The Honorable Valerie Ervin
President, Montgomery County Council

Mr. Bob Hoyt
Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. David Fahrenthold
The Washington Post

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